(c) whether Government have decided to rehabilitate such families on the high lands to save them from the repeated agony of flood-havoc; and

(d) if so, what is the action-plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) A number of flood protection measures like construction and strengthening of embankments on river Jamuna, studs, spurs and Tie-bands and desilting of storm water drains in the Union Territory of Delhi have been taken in the last 3 Years to prevent demange due to

(b) A total number of 8122 families had to be shifted due to recent floods in Delhi areas.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is prese ntly under consideration.

**R and D expenditure by Pepsi Project**

**125.** SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(J) how much Budget is earmarked in the Pepsi Project for Research and Development; and

(b) how does it compare with the bud-gets of the variou$_s$ Agriculture Universities and other laboratories in India on Agricultural Research and Development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Rs. 1.64 crores is earmarked for the Pepsi Project for Research and Development. This includes a Capital outlay of Rs. 0.59 crore and operating expense of Rs. 1.05 crores for five years.

(b) The budget estimate for the. year 1988-89 of various Agricultural Universities and other laboratories is Rs. 38.83 crores. 1419—R.S.—2.

**Taking over of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd.**

127. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA; Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in taking over the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limi ted, Bhadravathi; whether the Govern ment of India have put in eertain condi tions in this regard; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the State Government thereto and the time required to complete the formalities for the taking-over of the steel plant?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Before the take over of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. (VISL) is considered by the Central Govt, certain steps have to be taken to ensure its economic viability. Amongst others, assured power supply by Karnataka State Electricity Board at reduced rates, and concessions to VISL from the financial insitutions and banks regarding outstanding loans and accumulated interest on loan are of crucial importance.

Govt, of Karnataka have yet to com-municate their response to the proposed reduction in rate of power supply and keeping it frozen for the next five years with the assurance of sustained power supply.

Although VISL with the help of SAIL were to hold discussions with the financial institutions|banks with regard to the finan-cal concessions to be made available by them, no final decision has so far been taken in this regard.

Decision on the proposal for the take over of the VISL by the Central Govt, would be considered after a positive response on the points indicated to the State Govt. is available.

**Child exploitation**

*****129**.** SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has